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Education, Police, Administration of Civil and Criminal Justice, Jails, etc., the statistical and other information required for the preparation of the report has to be collected from a large number of subordinate officers. To enable Heads of Departments to do this, sufficient time in some cases extending to about six months after the close of the year to which the report relates has to be allowed. The statements have to be consolidated and the report has to be prepared and printed before submission to Government. All this necessarily takes time. Every endeavour is being made to bring out the reports as expeditiously as possible without sacrificing accuracy and completeness.

Public Works.

Strength of Assistant Engineers in the Madras Engineering Service.

2317 Q.—Mr. A. Ranganatha Mudaliyar: Will the hon. the Minister for Education be pleased to state—

(*a*) the sanctioned strength of the Assistant Engineers, Madras Engineering Service, before the last retrenchment;

(*b*) the same after retrenchment;

(*c*) the number of vacancies in it, which have not yet been permanently filled up;

(*d*) the number of officiating Assistant Engineers at present in the service;

(*e*) the number of Assistant Engineers who have been officiating for over three years;

(*f*) whether the Government have under consideration proposals to increase the present sanctioned strength of Assistant Engineers and if so, to what extent; and

(*g*) whether the increments hitherto given to the officiating Assistant Engineers have been stopped and if so, when and for what reasons?

A.—(*a*) 106.

(*b*) 75, which has since been increased to 76.

(*c*) 11.

(*d*) 64.

(*e*) The Government have no information on the point.

(*f*) Yes; to increase the strength from 76 to 77 to provide for a Subdivisional officer for the new River Conservancy division.

(*g*) Government have not issued any orders to the effect.

III

COMMUNICATIONS TO THE COUNCIL.

The Secretary then laid on the table—

(*a*) Copies of the proceedings [a] of the first and second meetings of the Finance Committee for 1926–1927 held on the 11th and 16th July 1926, respectively;

(*b*) G.O. No. 866 [b], dated 14th June 1926, recording the accounts of the Kerala Soap Institute, Calicut, for the quarter ending 31st December 1925.

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[a] Printed as Appendix VIII on pages 99–125 infra.

[b] Printed as Appendix IX on pages 125–136 infra.